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Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (ECA/MULPOC) for Eastern and Southern African States

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LC/NAIROBI

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION I (ECA/MULPOC/LUSAKA/VI/13) ON FUNDING THE CONVERSION OF SERERE RESEARCH STATION INTO A SUBREGIONAL CENTRE

BACKGROUND

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Lusaka 23-25 March 1983 had requested that a feasibility study should be undertaken with respect to the conversion of the Serere Station into a subregional Institution for research, demonstration and development of composite flours derived from indigenously grown cereals and tubers crops.

2. In response to that request, a two-man ECA mission went to Uganda, and found that the Serere Research met all the requirements for conversion to a subregional institution.

3. The project document drafted by the mission were presented to the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers who passed a resolution on funding the conversion of the Serere Research Station into a subregional centre (Resolution I).

4. The Ministers agreed that:

(a) During Phase I the Government of Uganda should expand the Serere Research Station to include a food processing component during 1983;

(b) During Phase II, the resources required to convert the Serere Research Station into a subregional Centre, estimated at US$1.1 million for five years, should be mobilized and ECA should intensify its efforts to secure external funding.

ACTIVITIES

5. In view of the above, project proposals in 30 copies each have been submitted to Afro-Arab Co-operation and to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (June 1983) for consideration and finance.

6. As far as these submissions are concerned, the responses are still awaited. It is clear that the mobilization of the required amount will face difficulties and will need time.1/

SUGGESTIONS

7. Activities of the subregional centre could start with the member States contributions while ECA will intensify its activities in raising external funds. The member States will really show their firm interests in the subregional centre by taking substantial financial obligations. Such conditions will probably facilitate the task for ECA in interesting potential donors to provide additional resources for operating the Centre.

1/ In connexion of this, activities started early in 1982 for funds raising to finance two "regional TCDC development and training centres in composite flours technology" requested in 1981 by the African Ministers of Industry, have not met up to now the expected success.